

GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT – January 2013
Month in Review

Department of Economic Development

1. The Board introduced Michael Koch as Director of the GC Department of Economic Development. Mr. Koch will officially begin his position on January 14, 2013.
2. The Board conducted a *Public Hearing* to receive public commentary on community development and housing needs, and to offer citizens the opportunity to hear and review plans for an application for the restricted use of job creation the Board proposes to submit to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. The project proposed for submission to the CDBG Program is the Keyser's Ridge Business Park New Construction and Job Creation. The Board closed the *Public Hearing* and executed a Resolution and Statement of Assurances and Certifications required for this process.

Department of Emergency Services

1. Review of the GC Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan is also on the County's main website at www.garrettcountry.org. The Board determined to keep the public commentary record open for a period of 2 weeks. After the period of two weeks, there was no public commentary received. The Board closed the public commentary period and approved the Plan as prepared.
2. The Board appointed Richard Carlson to the GC Emergency Services Advisory Board to serve as the Chief's Committee representative.

Department of Planning & Land Development

1. The Board conducted a *Public Hearing* to receive public commentary during their regular meeting on December 5, 2012, members of the GC Planning Commission discussed the need to amend the DC Watershed Zoning Ordinance with respect to certain provisions relating to the ordinance amendment process. Public commentary was provided and taken under advisement. The Board closed the *Public Hearing*. Additional questions were presented to the Board and therefore the Board re-opened the public meeting and additional discussion commenced. The Board agreed to keep the public record for this public hearing open for a period of 2 weeks with a final decision to be made on January 22, 2013.
2. The Board discussed issues relative to the GC Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Advisory Committee. .
3. Discussion relative to the creation and appointment of a DCL Task Force to include long term planning options.
4. On January 8, 2013, the Board conducted a *Public Hearing* to take under consideration official action to amend the DC Watershed Zoning Ordinance with respect to certain provisions relating to the ordinance amendment process. On this date the Board closed the public commentary period. The Board unanimously approved all Amendments to the Ordinance
5. The Board approved the execution of the DCL Shoreline Stabilization Projects Incentive Program Policy. Commissioner Crawford abstained from the vote and commented that he agreed with the Policy however, he wanted to wait until the DCL Phase II Study is completed to evaluate other environmental areas of DCL. The solitary intent of the policy adoption is to incentivize shoreline stabilization construction and defer or offset the associated cost for property owners. There was no intent to use the reimbursement funds as an offset or subsidiary for the MD Department of the Environment permit fee.
6. Friends of DCL requested that \$500 be directed to NGHS for so that students can obtain, grow and then install shoreline grasses at DCL. The Board approved this appropriation of funds. It was also noted that if SGHS enters into a similar program that equal funding will be provided.
5. Presentation of a status update of the required process the Department's Division of Permits and Inspections will undertake to review and approved the Four Mile Ridge Wind Project Concept and Site Development Plan.
6. The Board discussed issues related to the GC Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Advisory Committee. At the request of the Board, a survey was completed by members of the Committee listing the following options and survey results:
 - Option 1. Continue meeting on a frequent basis. If you select this option, please indicate areas of interest the committee should explore. 38%
 - Option 2. Discontinue meetings until such time as the Governor's Advisory Committee makes its final recommendation, the State completes the necessary studies contained in the Governor's Executive Order, and/or proposed regulations regarding permitting of wells utilizing hydro-fracking of horizontal laterals constructed into the shale formation are on the table. 62%
 - Option 3. Consider our work to be complete and disband the Commissioner's Advisory Committee. 0%
7. The Board discussed GC Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Advisory Committee and the recent survey results completed by members of the Committee that requested opinions on the continuation of the advisory Committee. The Board determined to schedule time in a forthcoming public meeting and place this matter on the agenda for public commentary.

Public Utilities

The Board was presented with a status review of the Western Conveyance Water and Wastewater Project by staff with the Department of Public Utilities and Engineering Department.

Solid Waste & Recycling

1. Update of capital improvement projects to include expansion of the King's Run Site and the Cell 4 Project.
2. Preparation and work on the Solid Waste Management 10 Year Plan is commencing.

3. Refuse sticker sales and other revenue generation.
4. Brush and continuation of permit for burning of debris from Hurricane Sandy.
5. Update on required amendments to the current Solid Waste Management 10 Year Plan.
6. Review of trends in solid waste and recycling which will allow for more proficient planning for future years.
7. Commissioner Raley requested that the Board and the Department consider another waiver of tipping fees for a spring cleanup of debris from Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Baker will monitor disposal of during the remainder of the winter months.

Miscellaneous

1. GC Department of Social Services updated the Board on the following matters:
 - a) Agency response to Hurricane Sandy and provision of public services during the days of the storm.
 - b) Notification on establishing a local Social Security office. The Board reviewed this request. It was determined by all parties to draft a letter for a consolidation of agency signatures to ask for approval of this subject.
2. Western MD Consortium briefed the Board on the following matters:
 - a) Update on Calendar 2012 job placement and job training completion.
 - b) Update on program and training provided to clients and participants.
 - c) Notice of the availability of training funds for forthcoming fiscal years.
3. University of MD Extension briefed the Board with a power point presentation that showed agriculture and natural resource programs components, special interest programs, and other related activities.
4. The Board met with the following persons to discuss gypsy moth suppression issues: MD Department of Agriculture, University of MD Extension, Members of the GC Forestry Board. A report reflecting the 2013 estimated suppression cost for GC was reviewed. In addition the cost of support staff for the administration of the program is not covered by UME. The Board will take the funding of this proposal under advisement.
5. Discussion with Garrett Lakes Arts Festival on a proposal for GC Kick Off to Summer Concert, tentatively to be scheduled for June 8, 2013.
6. The Board reviewed a request from Garrett Trails to apply for grant funding that would improve the Fork Run Recreational Area mountain biking opportunities. The Board concurred with this request.
7. The Board met with Sheriff Robert Corley and Department of Financial Services staff to discuss the issue of placement of School Resource Officers in the GC Public Schools. The Board agreed to appropriate funding for 2 school resources officers for the 2013 – 2014 school year. Funding will be directed to officer compensation, employee fringe benefits, training, and vehicle purchase. Estimated cost is \$265,000 and will be appropriated to the Sheriff's Department budget for FY 2014.
8. Brian Bowers, Purchasing Agent presented the following recommendation by the Energy Conservation Team working towards the goal of reducing energy consumption by 15% by year 2015. The Energy Conservation Team met with Johnson Controls to get a better understanding of the services offered under the State of MD Energy Performance Contract. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted that establishes the completion of an energy audit. The County is not obligated to enter into an agreement following the completion of the energy audit, regardless of the outcome or results of the audit, unless the County determines that it is in its best interest to do so, which shall be at the sole discretion of the County. The consensus of the team to enter into an MOU with Johnson Controls for an energy audit of all larger County facilities. The audit(s) will help identify some long-term conservation measures in addition to the immediate and short-term conservation measures the team is currently implementing. The Board agreed with the recommendation by the Energy Conservation Team. Commissioner Raley voted in opposition to the recommendation and motion.
9. Review of recommendations approved by the Salary Study Commission. These recommendations will be officially presented to the Board of County Commissioners during the February 5, 2013 Public Meeting.
10. The Board was presented with the GC Transit Development Plan by the Maryland Transportation Authority. The review was informational the plan was presented to provide a vision of the future of the public transportation system in Garrett County.